



The Link

A global voice for women

2/2014-2015 N° 237



20th SI Convention in Istanbul
A Diverse and Enlightening
Programme Awaits You!

CSW59/Beijing+20 in New York
Commitments Are Still
Far from Realised

Expo 2015 – Living the Future
Milan Is Ready, and
So Is Soroptimist !

Soroptimist International (SI) is a worldwide organisation for women in management and professions, working through service projects to build a better world for women and children. There are currently some 85,000 members in more than 3,000 clubs in 127 countries. Soroptimist International of Europe (SIE) is one of four SI Federations. It has some 35,000 members in over 1,250 clubs in 60 countries. Soroptimists inspire action and create opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls through a global network of members and international partnerships. For more information about the aims, activities and projects that characterise our organisation, please visit our SIE website at www.soroptimisteurope.org.



Note from the Editor

APOLOGIES FOR THE PUBLISHING DELAY

I've had a run of bad luck recently, and although my state of affairs is not the only reason for the delay in publishing *The Link*, it has played a major role. For that, I apologise and hope the contents of this issue will make the wait worth it.

The results of the Coordinated Report with respect to *The Link* were obviously disappointing. However, it strengthens me in my decision to resign as Editor at the end of this biennium. It is time for change. In today's digital age, it is also hard to compete with the speed of the website or social media. As wonderful as it is to read about your projects and

Soroptimist events, we are only skimming the top of the enormous mountain of Soroptimist efforts. And in any case, a quarterly magazine with 24 pages can present just a small percentage of the available news.

With the Governors' approval of the proposal to devise a comprehensive Communication Plan for our organisation, we have the unique chance to re-think our information policy and branding. It is a thrilling opportunity to be sure!

Christine Cromwell-Ahrens, Editor, The Link

Cover page



'Running through the heat' won first prize for Maria Fitcal from SI Bucharest in the Photo Competition category 'Women and girls raising awareness of climate change'.

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Dear Soroptimist Friends

There are so many things to report since my last letter, I hardly know where to begin! The past few months have been very exciting - for Soroptimist(s) and for me personally!

Trailblazing decisions at the GM

The beautiful city of Lisbon was the venue for this year's Governors' Meeting, which saw many important decisions. Under the leadership of Chair of the Constitution and By-laws Committee Renata Trottmann Probst the Working Group, originally set up to draft leaner Constitutions, ended up recommending a re-think of the entire legal framework with an eye to reducing bureaucracy and streamlining the wording. The Board supported this suggestion, and the Governors agreed.

After a lively discussion, the Governors also approved the SIE Board proposal to develop a new Strategic Communication Plan by using 90% of the increased dues earmarked for SI and approved in Palermo in 2011. The Strategic Communication plan will help position the organisation in today's fast changing society. The Board and I are very grateful that the Governors took this visionary approach to use the historic opportunity to secure the future of the organisation.

Electing and confirming the SIE Board

In addition to these extraordinary decisions, the Governors elected the next SIE Board and Committees and confirmed the appointees for the biennium 2015-2017. The new Board will be introduced on the website in the coming weeks, but I would like to mention the election of the SIE President 2017-2019, Renata Trottmann Probst. Congratulations to her and to all the newly elected SIE officers!

The various presentations at the GM, including my report on the 'Let's Go Green - working for a healthy environment' biennium theme, are available as downloads in the Members' Area of the SIE website. I encourage you to read them, as they give a fantastic overview of our work. The winners of the Best Practice Awards and the SIE Photo Competition were also announced at the Meeting. For more details, see pages 8-9 and 15. I would also like to draw your attention to the summary of the Coordinated Reports on pages 6-7. I thank all of you who compiled these important statistics, which allow us to assess our success and detect our weaknesses.

Tax exemption status approved

After last year's Governors' approval of the necessary amendments to the SIE Constitution, we were able to announce at the GM that the relevant Swiss tax authorities approved tax exemption on all levels for Soroptimist International of Europe for the next ten years. This means that SIE has now the status of 'public interest'. Donations by individuals and institutions domiciled in Switzerland are thus tax deductible.

Unforgettable days in Italy

I cannot tell you how impressed I was by my visit to the Expo 2015 in Milan and my subsequent tour of projects in Italy. Our Italian Soroptimists organised a wonderful programme at the Expo and gave me the opportunity to see for myself the extraordinary work done at club level. For more details please read the Expo report on pages 10-11 and the feature on my tour on pages 16-17.



SIE President Ulla Madsen (from right) poses with President of SI Italy Anna Maria Isastia and Nucci Lanzi Notari, SI Milano alla Scala in front of Milan's magnificent Cathedral.

Valuable investments in the future

I asked SIE 1st VP Tonny Filedt Kok and Extension Committee Chair Maria Luisa Frosio to review the various forms of training seminars carried out by Board Members because I feel this work is crucial to strengthening the organisation and securing the future of SIE. Their results were shown at the GM in July and now feature in this issue on pages 12-13.

Another important strategic move for Soroptimist is the planned formation of an African Federation. After participating in several meetings in Africa and as a member of the joint SIGBI and SIE Working Group, I have gained a very good knowledge and understanding of our organisation in Africa and of our African Soroptimists. I have also closely cooperated with

the SIFAF Task Force Group. It has been an precious and exciting experience to be a part of this development, and I commend all those involved for their perseverance and hard work. Please read about the regional meeting in Nairobi on page 14.

The next issue of *The Link* will contain details of the wonderful SI Convention in Istanbul, which was the culmination of my special Soroptimist summer. It has been a joy to see and meet so many of you during these past months. I am humbled and inspired by your friendship and amazing efforts in the name of Soroptimist!

Yours

Thanks to the excellent preparatory work of the Working Group, participants in the Governors' Meeting in Lisbon voted in favour of streamlining the Constitutions and By-laws. The Governors also gave their support to the proposal to develop a SIE Communication Plan

to boost the visibility and improve the image of our Federation.

Governors' Meeting 2014

GOVERNORS AGREE TO STREAMLINE CONSTITUTIONS



SIE President Ulla Madsen and President-Elect Maria-Elisabetta de Francisic congratulate Renata Trottmann Probst on her election as SIE President 2017-2019.

The combined expertise and experience of the members of the Working Group on the Lean Constitution no doubt contributed to the excellent results.

Lisbon's Soroptimists rolled out the red carpet to the Governors, Union Presidents representatives of Single Clubs and Silent Observers who gathered at the Dom Pedro Palace Hotel for this year's Governors' Meeting. The programme began with the Presidents' Meeting to give participating Presidents the opportunity to exchange experience and ideas. Subsequent to this general meeting, the various participants attended the individual events for Union Presidents, Single Club Presidents and the Africa Meeting.

After time for networking and a welcome buffet dinner, the Governors met for their own brain-

storming session. SIE President Ulla Madsen welcomed the Governors and explained that the meeting would put focus on visibility. According to last year's Membership Consultation, 19,700 members felt that the third highest obstacle to recruiting new members was the organisation's low visibility, after economic constraints and the average age. SIE Extension Committee Chair Maria Luisa Frosio and SIE Executive Director Anne Simon moderated a lively discussion, which allowed Governors to share their thoughts on various issues in line with the bottom-up approach.

Electing the SIE Board 2015-2017

The official meeting began on Saturday. After SIE President Ulla Madsen greeted international guests and the plenum, the routine points on the agenda were executed before the Governors elected the SIE Board 2015-2017 and confirmed the appointees suggested by SIE President-elect Maria-Elisabetta de Francisic. The individual Board Members will soon be presented in the Members' Area of the SIE website. The current Chair of the Constitution and By-

Laws Committee Renata Trottmann-Probst was elected SIE President 2017-2019.

Mandate to streamline the Constitutions

In her function as Chair of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, Renata reported on the findings of the Working Group set up to draft new, leaner Constitutions. They suggested re-thinking and modernising the entire legal framework, an idea that the Board supported. Thanks to the comprehensible presentation, the Governors agreed to a streamlining of the Constitutions, which will go a long way to reducing bureaucracy.

Devising a Strategic Communication Plan

Following a lively discussion, the Governors voted in favour of the SIE Board proposal to develop a new Strategic Communication Plan to be funded by 90% of the money set aside for SI dues' increase, approved in Palermo in 2011, (a total of EUR 2.40 per member). The amount has been kept on a separate account for three years (October 2012 to October 2015) in case of future SI claims. As the funds have not been used to date, they can now be earmarked for the new plan. The remaining 10% will be added to the reserves. The amount available in October 2015 will be EUR 248,000.

The Strategic Communication Plan aims to better position the organisation in today's fast changing society, whereby the ultimate goal is to strengthen the visibility of Soroptimist and its more than 1,250 Clubs. Most importantly, the goal is to make SIE more attractive across generations. As determined by the 2014 Membership Consultation

results, the low visibility of the organisation is a major obstacle to recruiting new members. In tandem with the Strategic Communication Plan, the Board is suggesting a fully integrated communication package, which will equip the organisation with innovative and modern marketing tools. In line with the bottom-up approach, Unions will be invited to nominate communication experts from their membership to join a Working Group to contribute to the plan.

Board member presentations available online

All the presentations are available in the Members' Area of the SIE website, including an interesting review of the biennium by SIE President Ulla and a presentation of the President elect Maria-Elisabetta's visions for the coming biennium. Separate articles in this issue report on the Coordinated Report, Best Practice Awards and the winners of the Photo Competition.

SIE Scholarships were awarded to 17 young women for a total of €108,406. Of the 15 Club applications to the Action Fund the Board agreed to distribute grants to 11 Clubs, totalling € 29,000, and the Governors confirmed this proposal. Details of the successful grants for the wide range of projects are available on the website.

Above and beyond the general business of the Federation there were greetings from SI President Anne Garvie and a special invitation to Istanbul from the organisers of the SI Convention.

The minutes of the GM will be available on the Members' Area of the SIE website, after the Governors have had the opportunity to comment on the draft. The venue of the next Governors' Meeting from 9th -10th July 2016 will be Sofia, Bulgaria.

The Governors followed the proposal of the SIE Board to mandate the drafting of new Constitutions and By-Laws.

The Governors' Brainstorming session on the eve of the GM gave participants the opportunity to voice their opinions.

VP Advocacy Elena Savu (right) thanks newly elected Chair of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee Lénia Lopes from SI Lisbon for the warm hospitality in Portugal.



35,000 SOROPTIMISTS COLLECTED OVER €7 MILLION FOR PROJECTS

Every year Unions and Single Clubs are asked to complete Annual Report Forms to gather information on their membership, activities and projects. The resulting statistics compiled by SIE Secretary General Birthe Sonne are invaluable for our work at international and European institutions.

While the new SIE structure was reflected in the Annual Report form for the first time in 2011-2012, the 2013-2014 results are probably the more reliable now that Unions and Single Clubs appear to be accustomed to reporting based on the five goals of the SIE Strategic Model. However, we have identified a problem with differing definitions of what is considered a project.

2013-2014 was the first year Unions reported on their own special projects instead of reporting only on projects carried out by their clubs. The amount of money spent in 2013-2014, i.e. €7 million, was the sum of the investment in all the projects in addition to grants from the Action Fund, Disaster Fund, Roswitha Ott Fund and Scholarship Fund. The number of projects increased significantly in 2013-2014 because Union clubs reported many more projects.

Keeping the deadline is crucial

The Coordinated Report is a summary of all the reports from Unions, Union clubs and Single Clubs. To achieve the best results, to take the temperature of SIE, so to speak, it is essential for the Board to receive as much information as possible and on time. This year the deadline for submitting the report was earlier than usual because the Governors' Meeting took place in May, due to the SI Convention in July. Unfortunately, only 12 Unions of 24 and 11 Single Clubs of 86 had submitted their reports by the deadline on 11th January. As the Coordinated Report takes a while to write and translate, it is of the utmost importance to keep the deadline so that participants in the Governors' Meeting have sufficient time to read this 100-page document. It is also important that as many clubs as possible provide information; this goes for both Single Clubs and clubs in Unions.

Communication remains a key issue

Unions and Single Clubs had the opportunity to comment on communication issues. The SIE website appears to be appreciated very much, and

there were several requests for more information via this medium. Compared to last year, The Link was rated lower, but at the same time the wish was repeated to access it online. As a subscription-financed publication, The Link cannot be made widely available online. In any case, the new Board is considering how to address this issue.

PFRs and club membership need attention

Unions and Single Clubs were offered the possibility to give a very short description of a single exceptional project and indeed, many wonderful projects were presented. Unfortunately, while 6,361 projects were mentioned, only 1,041 PFRs were documented in the same period.

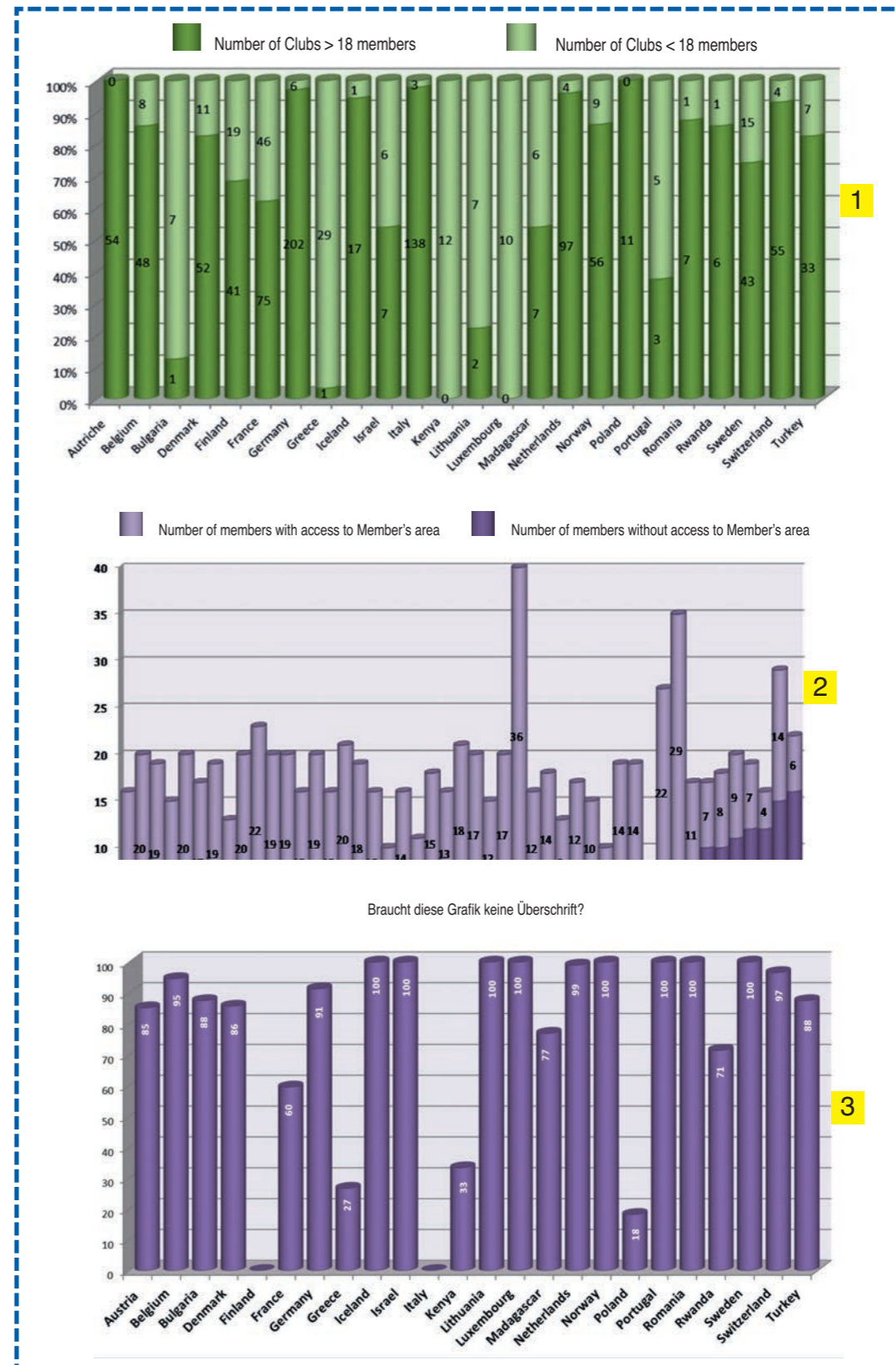
As of 1st October SIE had some 35,000 members in 59 countries. Most of the members are in Union clubs and it is therefore crucial that the Unions are aware of the number of members in each of their clubs. This is particularly important because the number of members in so many clubs is below the required 18.

Advocacy and Training for Extension and Retention

Many Unions and Single Clubs were unable to quantify the hours spent on Advocacy projects. We hope that after this Annual Report, members will be aware that this information is required and therefore make a greater effort to document the hours invested in a project.

Although training belongs to Goal 5 Strategic Leadership, it is also essential for advocacy. It is impossible to advocate for our organisation if you do not know how to do it! Without advocacy, we will not be able to recruit new members! Happily, more and more Unions and Clubs have introduced training at every level of their structure.

In conclusion, if each of our 1259 clubs would inaugurate two new members, SIE will attain more than 37,000 Soroptimists by next year. Just imagine!



1 The results show that membership in many Union clubs is dangerously low.

2 Only 47 of 86 Single Clubs answered the question pertaining to access to the Members' Area, and the results show we have a long way to go.

3 Unions were asked how many of their clubs submitted reports whereby no column means either that the Union did not answer the question or that the Union did not ask its clubs to submit reports.

4 The reporting methodology was based on the five goals of the SIE Strategic Model.



SIE PROJECTS EARN SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Every year the Federation honours the most outstanding projects for each of the five SI Objectives. As a tribute to the bottom-up approach, the number of SIE projects submitted for consideration this year reached 100. The winners of the Best Practice Awards 2015 were announced at the Governors' Meeting in Lisbon on 31st May.

The members of the jury, which I chaired, were SIE IPP Kathy Kaaf, SIE VP Advocacy Elena Savu, SIE Communication Officer Gerda Huisman and Representative to the OSCE Vera Gregor. Two awards were chosen for each of our five objectives - Education, Economic Empowerment, Elimination of Violence against Women, Health and Sustainable Environment. One project in the Education category was selected as the year's best 'Educate to Lead' project, and the project given the highest overall score by jurors was crowned 'Project of the Year'.

It is extremely important for our visibility to tell the world about these exceptional projects. Spreading the word about our work will help put our organisation on the map, promote extension efforts and further women's rights in general. A brochure with details of the winning prizes was distributed at the Governors' Meeting and is available through SIE HQ. I encourage you to use this informative publication in your communication activities.

On behalf of the SIE Board, I congratulate the winners for their tremendous work and commend all of you for your inspiring projects.

Maria Elisabetta de Francisci,
President elect and Chair of the Best Practice Award July 2015



The Biogas Station installed in a school in Madagascar won the Project of the Year award.



Project of the Year School Biogas Station - SI Madagascar

The biogas station installed in a school both recycles organic matter and creates biogas that can be used to fuel the stoves in the school's kitchen. SI Madagascar's project, which is exemplary of the 2013-2015 biennium theme 'Let's Go Green - Working for a healthy environment', reduces the environmental impact by using waste, thus helping to prevent the deforestation responsible for climate change. It also sends an important message to the school children.

'Educate to Educate to Lead' Award Syria Back to School - 70 Clubs of SI The Netherlands

Soroptimists from the Netherlands and Turkey are helping to acquire prefabricated schools each of which can be used to educate up to 2,160 children, thus allowing Syrian refugees in Turkey to pursue their education.



Some 70 Clubs in the Netherlands are funding the ambitious Syria Back to School project, which was selected for the 'Educate to Lead' award.

Educate: Increase access to formal and non-formal learning opportunities

Soroptimist Leadership Academy for Young Women - SI Struga (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) with the support of SI Turkey My Life 2024, a five-day exploration of healthcare professions for teenage girls - SI Wiesbaden (Germany)



With the support of SI Turkey, SI Struga organised a 10-day Soroptimist Leadership Academy for young women from different social, economic and cultural backgrounds.

Health: Ensure women and girls have food security and access to the highest attainable standard of healthcare

Stop cancer, a 10-year campaign to encourage women to undergo breast cancer screening - SI Athens East (Greece)
Hand in hand towards a healthier life provides support to children diagnosed with cancer and helps their mothers cope psychologically, economically, socially and physically - SI Izmir (Turkey)



SI Izmir is helping children diagnosed with cancer and their families by setting up different activities at the oncology and haematology units of a hospital.

Violence: Eliminate violence against women and girls and ensure women's participation in conflict resolution

Call 3919, a campaign to raise awareness of a helpline available to women victims or witnesses of assaults - SI Lille Métropole (France)
Mother and Child, Soroptimists funded the renovation of a shelter where displaced women can live in safety with their children - SI Uzhgorod (Ukraine)

Empowerment: Improve access to economic empowerment and sustainable opportunities for the employment of women

Mapula embroidery project to help 160 women from Winterveld overcome their economic difficulties - SI Oslo (Norway) in collaboration with SI Pretoria (South Africa)
Vegetable garden for more than 150 women from Foura to help them become economically self-sufficient - SI Bamako Espoir (Mali)



Promoting women agriculturalists is the aim of the project initiated by SI Bergamo and SI Bolzano in Italy.

Environment: Address the specific needs of women and girls by improving environmental sustainability and mitigating the effects of climate change and natural disasters

Water cisterns for Brazil is a project to fund the building of water cisterns in towns in the Bahia region - SI Brugge (Belgium)
Women's agriculture for a sustainable environment to promote the cultivation of high-quality produce which can be sold in local markets, thus demonstrating good environmental consciousness - SI Bergamo and SI Bolzano, but now expanded to 23 other clubs in Italy



MILANO

VISITORS TREATED TO A HIGH-CALIBRE PROGRAMME

In the presence of SI President Ann Garvie, SIE President Ulla Madsen and President of SI Italy Anna Maria Isastia some 200 Soroptimists from many European and non-European countries came to Milan at the invitation of the SI clubs of Milan to experience first hand Soroptimist for Expo: living the future.



A large delegation of Soroptimist office-holders participated in the three-day programme.

After almost three years of preparation, the members of the Milan clubs arranged a three-day programme that not only gave Soroptimists the opportunity to explore the exhibition, but also to get to know Milan better. Indeed, the occasion of the Expo allowed participants to exchange views and personal experiences.

On the first day the Soroptimist guests visited the Expo site with its 153 pavilions and the overall theme, Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life. Thanks to the excellent contacts of Diana Bracco, President of Expo Milano 2015 and a Soroptimist herself, we enjoyed an individually tailored visit to the Italian Pavilion, where many Soroptimists had the opportunity to meet Diana and the Italian Minister of Education, Stefania Giannini. In the area of the pavilion dedicated to We Women for Expo, two

award-winning Soroptimist projects of SI Italy were among the exhibitions: Paralegal courses for women on land tenure in Rwanda and a Mill for Mali Women.

Three SI projects honoured

The idea behind the paralegal courses was to train Rwandan women and men by the 'train the trainer' method. Among the topics addressed were land law, family law, inheritance law, and gender equality law. The involvement of the local NGO, Haguruka, gave continuity to the training and allowed organisers to collect feedback for a complete evaluation of the project. The impact of the project with its 321 participants has already been considerable.

SIE President Ulla Madsen was among the many Soroptimists who visited the Mill for Mali Women exhibit. This project, sponsored by SI Piacenza, empowered women in the Republic of Mali. In collaboration with Soroptimist Emilia Romagna and Association Kanagà 2008 Onlus, SI Piacenza worked tirelessly to ensure better living, economic and social conditions for the women of Dogon ethnicity in the village of Ouro-Koin. The project involved purchasing and installing a mill and supplying pipes to carry water from an existing well. Through their management of mill and the well, the women were able to earn a salary, thus achieving economic autonomy, and could spend more time on other activities.

The third Soroptimist project, which focused on empowering women in the area of sustainable farming and was supported by 28 Italian clubs, was presented at a pavilion dedicated to NGOs in a video that ran throughout the six months of the exhibition.

High calibre seminar on food issues

The next two days were devoted to the discovery of Milan, a vibrant city of art and culture. The central feature of this programme was a high calibre seminar titled Food, Culture, Society: Education to Taste, held at the Università Bocconi. University President Mario Monti and Chancellor of Università Bocconi Andrea Sironi honoured the group by offering a personal greeting.

Organised by SI Milano Fondatore and SI Milano alla Scala, the seminar dealt with a wide range of issues related to food. By the end of the event one common thread had emerged: taste, one of our five senses, greatly influences our food choices. Even in a country like Italy, traditionally home to a healthy Mediterranean diet, so-called junk food is starting to impose itself more and more. The result, as noted by Vittorio Silano of EFSA (European Agency for Food Safety), is an epidemic of obesity and diabetes, not only in industrialized countries, but also in emerging ones. Along these lines, Ulla Madsen commented in her speech: 'Education is the key to progress in all aspects of life related to food.'

While overindulgence is impacting developed countries, malnutrition is a plague in developing countries, where some people are actually still starving. Eliana La Ferrara, Professor of Development Economics at Università Bocconi, noted that social and cultural rules can be a limitation when trying to improve nutrition. For example, during a famine in India, the people were unable to consume the grain donated by aid organisations because their normal diet was based on rice. Despite food globalisation, we clearly need to take into account local customs, even in business. That is why a multinational food company like Danone, here represented by Bénédicte Julien Lafférière, is trying to adapt its products to each market.

Alessandro Barbero, Professor of Medieval History at the Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale, noted that there is also a cultural aspect to taste, for example in terms of the timing of meals.

Participants united by a common goal

At the end of the programme, we held the Soroptimist 'ceremony of candles' in the Loggia of the 15th century Ca'Granda courtyard, now home to the Università degli Studi di Milano. The ceremony sealed a pact among women of different languages and cultures who are united by the common goal to help improve the world.

Alessandra Dubini and Maria Luisa Frosio, SI Milano alla Scala, and Adriana Bazzi, SI Milano Fondatore

SIE President Ulla Madsen, Conference Moderator and Governor of SI Italy Adriana Bazzi, President of SI Milano Fondatore Francesca Tinelli di Gorla, President of SI Milano alla Scala Bruna Floreani, Chair of the Soroptimist for Expo event Daniela Giacoletto and SIE Extension Committee Chair Maria Luisa Frosio.



The award-winning Mill for Mali Women project was featured in the Italian Pavilion.



The then SI President Ann Garvie and SIE President Ulla Madsen met Stefania Giannini, Minister of Education of Italy in the distinctive surroundings of the We Women for Expo space.



SIE training takes many forms

THE KEY TO SUCCESS AND SUSTAINABILITY

To be a Soroptimist is to make a commitment to continuous learning, curiosity, self-esteem and confidence. To fulfil our mission – to improve the lives and the status of women and girls through education, empowerment and enabling opportunities – our members need the right skills. This is why SIE has made training a top priority.



1/2 SIEVP Tonny Filedt Kok spoke at the training for Polish Soroptimists, which SI Poland Union President Anna Wszelaczynska had requested and was organised with the support of 'twinning partner' SI Belgium. During this same seminar Polish trainer Iza Smieja spoke about communication and leadership .

3 More than 60 Rwandan Soroptimists and other guests attended a training session about leadership, communication and projects on the occasion of the 10th Peace Marathon in Kigali.

4/5 The Programme Director training in April, organised under the leadership of SIE President elect Maria-Elisabetta de Franciscis, offered a series of interactive workshops to discuss and examine project work, project reporting and SIE's Programme Focus areas

6 SIE Extension Committee Chairperson Maria Luisa Frosio or her representative visits a new Single Club at least once before its chartering and organises a training seminar for founding members, such as here in Peja, where the third club of Kosovo will soon be chartered.

Since Clubs and Unions change leadership every two years, training is critical to ensure continuity and success. In President Ulla Madsen's words, 'training is essential to develop and strengthen the knowledge of Soroptimist and to extend working partnerships and friendships'. Training prepares members for leadership roles and provides continuing education for existing members.

The Annual Reports indicated there is a high demand for training on topics such as leadership, communication, programmes, advocacy/lobbying, project management, extension/ retention, conflict resolution, fundraising, visibility, networking and implementing the new structure.

Tailor-made support and training

Board members and SIE HQ staff realise that Unions and Clubs need help. That is why tailor-made support and training are offered on specific issues, with special attention to clubs in foundation as well as to newly chartered clubs and Unions and Single Clubs going through difficulties.

SIE officers take every opportunity to organise training sessions, and each training event has a clear purpose. Some are by invitation and involve Soroptimists in a specific position (i.e. Governors, Presi-

dents, PDs or APDs). Others are in connection with visits or special meetings and are geared to preparing founding members of a new club or to reinforcing knowledge of Soroptimist for all members.

2500 members trained in this biennium

In order to have an overview of the work done, a questionnaire, requested by the Restricted Board and coordinated by Goal 4, was sent to the Board members (BM) and to the HQ staff. The results of that survey were presented to the Governors during the last meeting in Lisbon.

Here is just some of the work done by the Federation:

- * Governors' Seminars at the GMs;
- * Programme Directors (PD) and Assistant Programme Directors' (APD) training sessions;
- * Charter-related training sessions, in particular on the occasion of the signing of the 'Application Form for Admission' of new Single Clubs;
- * Training sessions about the SIE Structure and other general topics in Unions or regional meetings;
- * Training sessions and presentations related to SIFAF;
- * Training sessions related to the 'Twinning Programme'; and
- * Non-formal training sessions, by invitation, mostly in clubs in the country of the Board member.

The general outcome of all this work is that approximately 2,500 members were reached in formal training sessions in this biennium. In non-formal training sessions, a large but undefined number of members was also reached, and the results of this relevant exercise are largely underestimated.

Hundreds of hours devoted to training

A great variety in the type and the duration of training sessions emerged from the questionnaire, even though it is difficult to quantify the exact number of hours spent in training. Furthermore, the questionnaire asked for the duration of the training itself, not for the time needed for at-home or on-location preparation, nor for travelling and reporting time. Thus, we can assume that the BM and the HQ staff dedicated hundreds of hours to training.

Notwithstanding budget limitations, the hope for the next biennium is to increase the time and the effort dedicated to training in order to meet, in the best possible way, the needs of our membership. The focus should be on training for Union and Single Club Presidents, PDs and APDs, Extension officers, treasurers and webmasters. More attention should be given to the knowledge of the

Constitution and the relevant By-Laws. Last but certainly not least, SIE should provide a 'train the trainers' session to create a task force ready to take action in response to members' needs. In order to reach as many members as possible, PowerPoint presentations and various training materials will be made available on the SIE website, together with the updated version of the Members' Handbook.

A training seminar for the representatives of the Single Clubs in continental Europe and the four Unions in Eastern Europe will be held in Leuven/Belgium in October. Originally, SIE President Ulla Madsen had planned for this training seminar to take place in the last year of the biennium 2013-2015 but, for a number of reasons, it had to be postponed to the next biennium with the approval of SIE President-Elect Maria Elisabetta de Franciscis.

Making our organisation more sustainable

We hope that the work done at all levels in our Federation will help us make our organisation more sustainable and ready to successfully face the challenges ahead.

Tonny Filedt Kok-Weimar, SIE Vice President 2013-15
Maria Luisa Frosio, SIE Chair Extension Committee 2013-15

SIFAF 2nd Eastern & Northern Regional Meeting in Nairobi

THREE DAYS OF LEARNING, DECISIONS AND ACTION



The conference organising committee members cut the anniversary cake with keynote speaker Dr Jennifer Riria (centre).

Over 50 Soroptimists from Tunisia, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Rwanda, Ghana and Kenya came together with SIE Africa Coordinator Mariet Verhoef-Cohen and Irish Soroptimist Maria Kidney now living in Kenya from 7th-9th May 2015 in Nairobi for the Eastern & Northern Regional Meeting to review the progress made regionally towards the SI Future African Federation (SIFAF). In addition, the SIFAF Taskforce also reported on the Strategic Plan in preparation of forming the Federation. On the final day, participants also joined members of SI Kenya to celebrate the Union's 20th anniversary.

The topics covered were What do we expect from Soroptimist International, Communications & Networking, Why the Africa Federation and Africa & Soroptimists: The little steps that matter. The Road Map produced during the Pretoria Meeting in March 2014 was analysed and revised to maintain the target by the next general meeting in Madagascar in March 2016. A revised Action Plan and Resolutions were prepared and sent to the Future Federation Task Force for action.

Keynote speakers at the conference were Mr Mbaruku Ali Vyakweli, the Vice Chair of the Africa Water Association and the Head of Corporate Communications, Nairobi Water and Sewerage Company (NWSC), and Dr Alice Kaudia, the current Environ-

ment Secretary for the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources in the Republic of Kenya.

The final day was devoted to SI Kenya. The SI Kenya Strategic Plan was launched, and presentations were made by some of the exhibitors at the main conference. Among other things, this included Girls for Girls, an NGO founded by Maria Kidney. They educate and empower girls by informing them about menstruation, distributing washable sanitary pads and building girl-friendly toilet blocks at schools.

The event closed with a gala dinner to celebrate the achievements of Soroptimists in Kenya over the past 20 years and to wish the Union sustained growth and success in the future. In her speech, Dr Jennifer Riria, the Group CEO of Kenya Women Finance Trust, inspired participants to grow both in their personal lives and in their clubs. It is time to move on from small 'cute' photo opportunity projects to large-scale meaningful projects that can only be achieved in partnership with other like-minded organisations.

A scholarship recipient told her story and all the past presidents were honoured. One of the national Kenyan newspapers devoted almost an entire page to the event.



Soroptimists from Eastern and Northern Africa reviewed the progress towards an Africa Federation at the Meeting in Nairobi.

With Your Eyes Only - Part One

WINNERS OF THE SIE PHOTO COMPETITION 2015

1st prizewinner

The photographer of the 'Cleaning Water' is Ismet Arikanturk of SI Club Izmir (SI Turkey).



Women and Girls Securing a Sustainable Future:

This year's Photo Competition offered three categories: (A) Women and Girls Securing a Sustainable Future, (B) Women and Girls Promoting Better Nutrition and (C) Women and Girls Raising Awareness of Climate Change. Below we are presenting the winners of categories A and B.

SIE Programme Director Christine Peer chaired the jury, which consisted of former prizewinners Dr Roberta Ghidoni of SI Club Crema (SI Italy) and Villy Makou of SI Club Athens Kifissia Ekali (SI Greece), SIE Editor of The Link Christine Cromwell-Ahrens and SIE Programme and Advocacy Assistant Bintou Koita.

The four criteria for evaluation were: suitability to the theme; artistic value; originality of the subject and orientation to Advocacy. Two winners were chosen for each category. One additional photo in each of the three categories earned a so-called Candy Prize, based on cleverness.

The cover of this issue of The Link features the first prizewinner for Women and Girls Raising Awareness of Climate Change. The second prizewinner and the Candy Prizes will be shown in the next issue.



2nd prizewinner

The photographer of 'Caterpillar of the machaon butterfly' is Evelyne Bastin of SI Club Marche en Famenne (SI Belgium).

Women and Girls Promoting Better Nutrition

1st prizewinner

The photographer of 'Lunch' is Helena Sandman of SI Club Helsinki (SI Finland).



2nd prizewinner

The photographer of 'Bread - a Real Blessing' is Suzanne Kühne of SI Hermagor (SI Austria).

A post-Expo tour for SIE President Ulla

VISITING MARVELLOUS PROJECTS IN ITALY

After eventful and exciting days at the Expo 15 in Milan, SIE Extension Committee Chair Maria Luisa Frosio organised visits to several Italian projects for SIE President Ulla Madsen. The following is her personal report on this inspiring experience.



1 SIE President Ulla's programme in Italy continued with a second visit to the Expo 2015, where she learned about the award-winning Mill for Mali Women project presented in the Italian Pavilion in the WE Women for Expo space. 2 After touring a White Rose room specially set up for victims of violence, Ulla met the Managing Director of the Ospedale San Pellegrino and the President of SI Club Castiglione delle Stiviere Enza Moratti. 3 SIE President Ulla discussed the details of the Cavezzo 5.9 project with the mayor of the city and President Rosarita Benassi and IPP Cecilia Ghittoni of SI Club Modena. 4 Participants tasted the produce from the 'Women's agriculture for a sustainable environment' project at the dinner and presentation.

My adventure began with a visit to the women's prison of Bollate, which is trailblazing in its efforts to educate and train prisoners and to prepare them for re-entering society. Among other things SI Club Merate has created a library. The prison director and 25 of the 80 women inmates welcomed us there. It was moving to listen to the women's stories. Helping these women improve their chances for a better life on the outside is very meaningful work. I commend SI Merate and its President, Paola Pizzaferrì. I will never forget the women I met that day.

Amazing achievements

The Cavezzo 5.9 project was the runner up in the Empowerment Best Practice Award last year for its contribution to the relief effort the devastating earthquake in 2012. SI Italy's fundraising initiative raised an impressive €90,000 towards building a highly innovative shopping centre in Cavezzo in collaboration with the municipality. The series of second-hand shipping containers allowed 17 women to re-open their businesses! I met several of these women in their shops during my visit. Under the leadership of SI Club Modena, it was amazing to see what the Italian Soroptimists have achieved.

SI Club Castiglione delle Stiviere initiated the White Rose Code project, which was featured in the last issue of *The Link*. This network for victims of violence has received support from the management and emergency team of Ospedale San Pellegrino in Castiglione. The club also partnered with other local associations and shelters to provide facilitated access to the appropriate hospital services. We visited the room where the victim is taken. I was highly impressed by the procedures put into place to help the victims and by the enthusiasm of the attending doctors, specialists and authorities. The project was among the five top projects for the Violence Best Practice Award 2015.

An enjoyable dinner

I had the pleasure to attend a dinner and presentation of the 'Women's agriculture for a sustainable environment' project initiated by SI Club Bergamo and SI Club Bolzano. This project supports women who cultivate high-quality produce for sale

at local markets, while at the same time demonstrating environmental awareness. Bakers and animal farmers are also involved. We were served many of the high quality products, including vegetables, wine and dairy products, during thoroughly the enjoyable evening. It was absolutely marvellous, and I had the privilege to meet many of the producers. This project recognised in the top 5 projects for the Environment Best Practice Awards.

The Link has reported several times on the 'Protected courtrooms for minors', initiated during Flavia Pozzolini's biennium. Soroptimists across the Italian Union, in partnership with the Italian Ministry of Justice, have undertaken a project truly unparalleled in scale to protect children who have been victims or witnesses of crimes. In just a few years, they have funded 59 special courtrooms in which children can give testimony in a protected environment adapted to their age. This project was the overall winner of the Best Practice Awards in 2014, and it was a privilege to tour one of these rooms at a court in Torino, thanks to President Elect of SI Italy Leila Picco.

As you might well imagine, it was an overwhelming experience to visit all these projects, each of which is unique in its own way. I enjoyed every minute of my stay in Italy and the visit to the Expo. I congratulate the Italian Soroptimist for their hard work. With its 200 participants, the event at the Expo was indeed a big success. WELL DONE!

A big thank you!

From the bottom of my heart I extend a big thank you to Union President Anna Maria Isastia, the Union Board Members, Chair of the Organizing Committee for Expo15 Daniela Giacoletto and her team, the Presidents of SI Club Milano Fondatore Francesca Tinelli and SI Club Milano alla Scala Bruna Floreani, SIE Chair of the Extension Committee Maria Luisa Frosio and all the Club Presidents and members who have been involved in making the 'Soroptimist go for Expo15' and my visit to so many projects such an unforgettable, fruitful and successful experience. I am so very proud to learn of the incredible effect these projects have had to better and empower the life for women and girls. SI Italy, I salute you!

Ulla had the opportunity to speak to one of the judges in Torino, after visiting the protected room for minors at the Tribunal.



Safe Water from Women for Women

SUCCESSFUL >> SOLVATTEN PROJECT CONTINUES

From the beginning, the Solvatten Project has had the elements to be a winner: a good project team, an excellent partner in Solvatten and well-tested combined water treatment and solar heating devices that offer sustainable help to needy women and families. It is therefore no surprise that between October 2012 and March 2015 various SI Swedish clubs and five SI German clubs have raised € 67,000 and distributed 625 Solvatten units in Kenya, Tanzania, Angola, Sénégal and more



Thanks to her Solvatten unit, Rahab Mugechi has been able to reduce the expenses of her hair salon, for which she requires clean water. Alice Kangata presents Esther James, who has eight children and five grandchildren, with a device for her fruit-selling business.

recently Malawi. The latest delivery of 72 units went to Tuinuke Africa Empowerment CBO in Kenya, which distributed the units in the Muranga County. In 2014 Tuinuke had already placed 144 units.

Over the years, however, the Solvatten Project Group has found that the ultimate success of this project has depended on the support and dedication of local partners, who ensure that the units really get to those who require them. Among those who excelled in this respect are Martha Gitau, Charles Gitonga and Alice Kangata. As Alice reported in May 2015, community health improved, stomach aches in pre-school children decreased, costs of fuel were reduced by 80%, after people started using Solvatten units for drink-

ing water, cooking and bathing. Due to better health, the money normally spent on medication can be invested to improve living standards. Solvatten units are also used in small scale businesses such as hair saloons, hotels and in farming.

SI Sweden's Solvatten project is now a permanent programme that will continue as long as donors find it worthwhile. To read more, please go to www.soroptimistSweden.se or see the article in The Link 1/2013-2014 on page 16. To donate, please contact Jytte Roos of the Solvatten Project Group: jytte.roos@tele2.se.

SI Danzig and SI Köln-Römerturm

TREES FOR THE NEW CAMPUS IN DANZIG <<

Some 50 Soroptimists gathered at the new campus of the University of Danzig in April to witness the planting of six trees in line with the SIE biennium theme, 'Let's Go Green - Working for a Healthy Environment'. The joint project of SI Club Danzig and SI Club Köln-Römerturm was carried out in cooperation with the University, which wants to set an example against global warming. The two SI clubs, which have enjoyed a Friendship Link since 2009, decided to plant two oaks, two maples and two ginkos, all of which are now part of a park for students. SI Poland and members of various Polish clubs also participated in this activity.



Katarzyna Piszczako-Palasz of SI Danzig planted one of six trees while Maria Klaas of SI Köln-Römerturm and representatives from the University of Danzig look on.

As an honorary member of the first club of Danzig, Danuta Walesa attended the event as well. During an interview she spoke candidly of her life as the wife of the former Solidarnosc leader and Polish President Lech Walesa. Danuta Welesa is a loyal supporter of Soroptimist projects and participates in many SI events.

As part of the official ceremony, Katarzyna Piszczako-Palasz of SI Danzig and Maria Klaas of SI Köln-Römerturm presented the current projects of the respective clubs. Artists Ksenia Bagniewska of SI Danzig and Marie Luise Salden of SI Köln-Römerturm also exhibited a selection of their works. Participants were then treated to a tour of the Solidarity Centre in Danzig, which featured the historical development from the first strikes at the Danzig shipyards to the Poland's elected government.

Maria Klaas and Margret Böckler, SI Köln-Römerturm

Settimana sulla neve

A VIENNESE IN THE DOLOMITES <<

When the invitation from Italy landed in my mailbox, I had no idea that the week in the snow was already at its 34th edition. In addition to winter sports it offered culinary surprises and Soroptimist events in an unforgettable, unique setting, the Dolomites. This spectacular mountain range with its peaks all dressed in white glows - even in the dark!

I found myself as the only non-Italian among some 40 Soroptimists from 16 Italian Clubs. The programme offered guided snow shoe walks, cross-country and downhill skiing and easy hikes. We had a fascinating lecture about our solar system, a cooking class at the famous L'Altro Vissani and many gourmet dinners in well-selected restaurants. One dinner was in sync with the Expo 2015 and had the theme 'The traditional food of the Dolomites: cereals, breads and sweets of the region'. It focused on foods and wines ecologically and sustainably produced by local Soroptimists. There was a business meeting, at which representatives of 11 Clubs spoke about their



Making new friends in the Dolomites (from right): President SI Cortina d'Ampezzo Maria Grazia Franchi Pozzan, Vice President of SI Italy Patrizia Salmoiraghi, Governor of SI Italy Luisella Bellinaso, and Governor of SI Austria Herta Kaschitz.

Club projects, many of which dealt with the issue of violence against women. I heard about the new Soroptimist App S.H.A.W. (Soroptimist Help Application Women) to assist female victims of violence.

Thanks to a very professionally conducted media campaign, the panel discussion 'Be women for a gender success' was attended by about 100 outside guests. A moderator from RAI talked to four successful women (former skiing champion Deborah Compagnoni, fashion designer Donatella Girombelli, journalist and photographer Elisabetta Latanzio Illy, and banking and financial expert Cristina Finocchi Mahne) about their experience as women breaking the glass ceiling.

As a born Viennese, I was very touched that the closing dinner was held at the Terrazza Viennese with Sachertorte as desert.

Thank you, President Maria Grazia Franchi Pozzan, for all your efforts, and thank you dear SI Cortina d'Ampezzo for a job well done!

Herta Kaschitz Governor, SI Austria

Kleine BU? and Governor of SI Austria Herta Kaschitz.



>> **SI Marche-en Famenne**

A CELEBRATION ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Christian Bastin, Marguerite De Riemaeker-Legot's son and husband of Soroptimist Evelyne (right), writes a dedication for Club President Pascale Woelfle (left) in the book he wrote to commemorate his mother's appointment as the first female minister of Belgium.



SI Club Marche-en Famenne welcomed several Belgian clubs and two SIE representatives to celebrate its 25th anniversary in the historical setting of the prestigious Jemeppe Castle. An exciting programme was organised for the occasion that explored our cultural heritage in a tour of the city and the magnificent Roman church of Waha, a presentation of the souvenir book about Marguerite De Riemaeker-Legot, the first female minis-

ter of Belgium (see adjacent article), and a private walkabout around Jemeppe Castle.

Club President Pascale Woelfle gave a brief overview of the actions the club has carried out in the 25 years since it was founded. She highlighted the friendship, team spirit and solidarity of the group. 'The club strives to build a better world in which the voice of every woman and child will be heard and passed on.'

To mark its 25th anniversary, the club paid tribute to two associations working in the Belgian province of Luxembourg and presented each of them with a cheque for €5,000.

- The goals of Gatte d'Or are integration and dignity for everyone, and it organises activities to help both disabled and able-bodied people discover their individual resources. The association's donkeys offer disabled and abused children excellent therapeutic possibilities. Thanks to the club's donation, a roof can be built for the riding ring to allow year-round use.

- The Emergency Foster Families Service finds emergency foster homes for children from 0 to 18. The donation will go towards buying equipment, medication, food and clothing for these children.

The beautiful sunny day drew to a close in a warm atmosphere marked by friendship and memories.

Micheline Tremblay, SI Marche-en-Famenne

>> **SI Vicenza**

THREE SERVICE PROJECTS MARK ANNIVERSARY

SI Club Vicenza marked its 50th anniversary by unveiling three service projects for the city. President Isabella Cominato appointed a commission of club members to implement the projects and organize the events.

The first project was to install a wheelchair ramp to reach the church of San Giorgio. Located on a hilltop and formerly only accessible by steps, the church was probably built in the early Christian age on the site of a Roman necropolis and still preserves features of Medieval architecture. The wheel-

chair ramp was made possible thanks to the financial resources of two presidencies: Isabella Cominato (2013-15) and Marina Bertazzoni (2011-2013).

The second activity was a competition for secondary school students under the motto *Vicenza, città a misura di donne* or *Vicenza, a women-friendly city*. The aim is to improve the quality of life of women of our city. The third service project was to set up a protected hearing room in Vicenza's new courthouse.

President and Vice President of SI Italy Annamaria Isastia and Patrizia Salmoiraghi, Past President Wilma Maluccelli and SIE Chair of Extension Maria Luisa Frosio all attended the celebration as did numerous Soroptimists from SI Passau (Germany) and SI Steyr (Austria), two members of SI Dnepropetrovsk (Ukraine), one from SI Lugano Lago (Switzerland) and many others from various Italian clubs.

On Friday afternoon the Mayor of Vicenza welcomed the guests and expressed his gratitude for our projects. In the evening Union President Annamaria presented the plaque for the protected hearing room to the president of the courthouse. The prize awarded to the winner of the student competition, which was presented on Saturday morning, consisted of a trip to Brussels to attend a session of the European Parliament. The winning project was *Io dico sì*, i.e. *I Say Yes*, for the prevention of women's cancers.

The candle ceremony and the exchange of pennants took place in the wonderful location of Villa Valmarrana di Nani on Saturday night. At the end of the evening participants were given an engraving by club member Livia Carta. It features the Basilica Palladiana with the faces of Soroptimists in the arcades and a classical music CD recorded in the Teatro Olimpico. On Sunday morning the inauguration of the wheelchair ramp was followed by the celebration of the Holy Mass in the beautiful church of San Giorgio.

At the farewell lunch in the Berici Hills villa of club member Pilar Coin we all vowed to meet again for SI Vicenza's next anniversary.

Laura Stiassi, AD SI Vicenza



From left: Valeria Zanuso, the priest don Agostino Venere, President of SI Vicenza Isabella Cominato and IPP Marina Bertazzoni at the inauguration of the wheelchair access to the church of San Giorgio.

From left: President of SI Vicenza Isabella Cominato, President of SI Italy Anna Maria Isastia, the club's most long-standing member Maria Valeria Capnisti and SIE Chair of Extension Maria Luisa Frosio perform the candle ceremony.

female Secretary of the Chamber of People's Representatives. On July 27th 1965, she became Belgium's first female minister and on October 18th 1974, became the first woman to be Minister of State. She ended her career as Deputy Mayor of Brussels from October 1970 until her death on May 7th 1977.

Her life history was presented during the SIB club Marche-en-Famenne's 25th anniversary celebration and also at a conference organised by the Belgian umbrella organisations Conseil des Femmes Francophones de Belgique and the *Nederlandstalige Vrouwenraad*.

The souvenir book (in French or Dutch) written by her son Christian and edited by her daughter-in-law Evelyne Bastin (a member of SIB) is available via cderi@skynet.be. For more information: www.mdrl.be

First women minister in Belgium <<

MARGUERITE DE RIEMAECKER-LEGOT PAVED THE WAY

Marguerite de Riemaeker-Legot was involved in more than 40 bills and proposals to improve the status of women.

Born on March 9th 1913, Marguerite De Riemaeker-Legot obtained a PhD in Law in 1936. She became the Cabinet Secretary of the socially committed senator, Maria Baers, who was her mentor for 10 years and encouraged her to take up a career in politics.

An exclusively male electorate elected Marguerite to Parliament in 1946. She immediately began addressing the problems she had experienced as a young female legal expert, working on draft bills authorising women to practise law in the Supreme



Court and promoting women's access to the magistracy. She introduced the bill aiming to guarantee equal opportunities in the civil service, as well as co-signing her party's draft bill to recognise equal voting rights for women. During her parliamentary career, Marguerite tabled 14 draft bills and was involved in more than 40 bills and proposals to improve the status of women and young people.

She was the first woman in Belgium to serve in the European Parliament in Strasbourg and the first

SI La Rochelle <<

CONFERENCE RAISES AWARENESS OF THE OCEANS



Many prominent guests and politicians attended the Ocean Conference in La Rochelle.

On Sunday, the Soroptimists had organised a sailing excursion for guests.



Oceans play a crucial role in protecting the planet, and this knowledge is essential for survival. La Rochelle is home to Europe's largest marina, and to mark World Environment Day, SI Club La Rochelle organised a conference, 'Plankton - the Lungs of the Earth', which was hosted by Christian Sardet, research supervisor at the CNRS and co-founder of Tara-Océans expeditions.

Some 100 people attended the event, which was followed by a sailing excursion the next day. The funds raised will enable fifteen children to learn to respect and protect the environment as part of a sailing course at the Plates sailing school.

Jean-François FOUNTAINE, La Rochelle's mayor, Olivier FALORNI, MP for Charente-Maritime and Colette CHAIGNEAU, honorary MP, were among those who participated in the Ocean Weekend and showed their support for the Soroptimists.

For more info, please visit <http://la-rochelle.soroptimist.fr>

SI Club Vaduz <<

BIG VOICES FOR A SMALL CHILD

SI Club Vaduz organized a charity concert in the council chamber of Vaduz to raise funds for Hanna, a small child suffering from mucoviscidosis. Singers who have been studying or had studied with Dora Kutsch-Doceva, a member of SI Vaduz and a professor for singing at the conservatory in Austria, presented arias from famous operas as well as favourites from operettas all under the motto women-lives and love. On the piano performed Akiko Shiochi, also professor at the conservatory, accompanied the singers on the piano. All eight singers performed without fees so that all the concert's proceeds of some € 6,000 could benefit Hanna.

Hanna goes to school, has friends and likes to laugh like any other child in Poland. But there is a difference. Hanna is ill. She requires special food and needs medical treatment. And if she cannot get a lung transplant in time, she will die.

Club Vice President Dr Jolanta Budissek-Modlinski, who played a major role in organising the event, knows Hanna's family and will personally follow the developments in Poland. All the income went to special account for Hanna at the Polish Foundation for Children with Mucoviscidosis.



Pictured on the photo are (from left): Irene Marxer, Dr. Jolanta Budissek, Vivien Gertsch, Lea Gruber, Johannes Schwendinger, Stella Maria Halamek, Veronika Dünser, Monique Vauti, Akiko Shiochi, Sori Pfeifer, Milan Babic, Nadja Nigg, Victoria Türtscher, Professor Dora Kutsch-Doceva, Sibylle Wicky, Felicitas Singer and Monika Studer.

We sincerely hope that she will get the treatment she needs and that we were able to help make her life and the life of her family a little easier.

The concert offered extraordinary music which was enjoyed by all participants - singers and the audience alike! Afterwards everybody went to the club's Restaurant Royal, where finger food awaited the guests. The club thanked all the gifted young singers who most certainly can look forward to a successful future.

SI Goldes South Styria and SI Vaduz <<

UNIQUE WAYS TO RAISE FUNDS

There are many ways to raise funds to finance projects, but Soroptimists in Austria and Liechtenstein always manage to add a bit of fun to the equation.

In the last issue of The Link we reported on the SIE ski week in Kals, Austria. Equally popular is the annual Federation Golf Week, which took place in Dubai in April on the occasion of the charter ceremony of SI Club Gulf Dubai. As a consequence of these two fund-raising events, a cheque for €3,000 was presented to the new club for their project,

'Sunny Emirates without Skin Cancer'. Happily, many of the participants in the respective events were present in Dubai to celebrate with the new club.

Another successful and unique fund-raising event, organised by SI Club Goldes South Styria and SI Club Vaduz, is the Salmanazar Rallye in southeast Austria. The fourth run of this event yielded an amazing sum of €20,000, which will be invested in a reading project and other projects in the field of education.

The ski week in January (left) and the golf week in April raised €3,000, which Soroptimists presented to SI Gulf Dubai on the occasion of the club charter (right).



The 4th Salmanazar Rallye yielded an impressive €20,000 for reading and education projects.



Please submit your contributions to the next issue by 5th October 2015!

NEW SIE CLUBS TO BE CHARTERED

26th September 2015

Napoli Vesuviusi (Italy)
Charter to be presented by
Nijole Netiksiene, Governor,
SI Lithuania
Club President
Celeste Giliberti
Email: celeste_giliberti@hotmail.it

26th September 2015

Rostock (Germany)
Charter to be presented by
Herta Kaschitz, Governor,
SI Austria
Club President
Nicole Höra
Phone: +49 176 63469511
Email: n.hoera@centrum.is

3rd October 2015

Mödling (Austria)
Charter to be presented by
Marie-Claude Bertrand, SIE VP
2015-2017
Club President
Sylvia Polt
Phone: +43 681 103 296 48
Email: sylvia-polt@poltconsultik.at

9th October 2015

Thionville Portes de France
(France)
Charter to be presented by
Gerda Rosiers, SIE Extension
Committee Chair
Club President
Sandrine Grumberg
Phone: +33 680 856 747
Email: sandrine@viasourcing.com

10th October 2015

Single Club Hawassa (Ethiopia)
Charter to be presented by
Ulrike Neubert, SIE Vice
President 2013-2015
Club President
Amarech Agidew
Phone: +251 910 187 770
Email: amarecha@yahoo.com

17th October 2015

Tröllaskagi (Iceland)
Charter to be presented by
Sigrid AG, SIE VP 2015-2017
Club President
Jónína Magnúsdóttir
Email: jmra@centrum.is

23rd October 2015

Kuwait (Kuwait)
Charter to be presented by
Maria-Elisabetta de Franciscis, SIE
President 2015-2017
Club President
Stacey Celina Al-Ghawas
Phone: +49 176 63469511
Email: staceyq8@gmail.com

24th October 2015

Chania Efharis (Greece)
Charter to be presented by
Flavia Pozzolini, SIE General
Secretary
Club President
Hara Galousi
Phone: +30 693 216 9883
Email: efharisgalousi@yahoo.com

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR SIE

29th September 2015

25th Anniversary
SI Hässleholm (Sweden)

29th September 2015

25th Anniversary
SI Manosque (France)

29th September 2015

25th Anniversary
SI Noord-West Veluwe
(The Netherlands)

6th October 2015

25th Anniversary
SI Luxembourg-Clairefontaine
(Luxembourg)

6th October 2015

25th Anniversary

SI Wuppertal-Toelleturm
(Germany)

20th October 2015

25th Anniversary
SI Göttingen (Germany)

20th October 2015

25th Anniversary
SI Isernia (Italy)

27th October 2015

25th Anniversary
SI Bad Ischl (Austria)

27th October 2015

25th Anniversary
SI Kerayot-Haifa (Israel)

27th October 2015

25th Anniversary
SI Lolland (Denmark)

30th October 2015

25th Anniversary
SI Mayotte (France)

9th-10th May 2016

Governors' Meeting
Sofia (Bulgaria)

INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS DAYS AND EVENTS

21st September

International Day of Peace



The Link

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